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South Dakota
Labor Bulletin

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Nonfarm employment in 1991: modest increase not so bad

Nonfarm employment increased a modest 2.8 percent from 1990 to 1991, up 8,000 jobs to a level of 296,700. That growth rate is lower than the 4.6 percent increase from 1989 to 1990, and in fact, lower than the increases the state has seen the last three years. But it is still good compared to the nation's slight decline in nonfarm employment over the year and is also higher for the most part than the increases noted in the early to mid 1980s.

Services leads the pack again

The services industry, which has been on a steady growth trend since 1980, added the most nonfarm workers to payrolls during 1991. This growth was found mainly in the hotels/motels and amusement division and the medical and health services division. In the hotels/motels and amusement division, increases were divided evenly among the two portions. Increases occurred as several new hotels/motels were opened, and others expanded, adding "guest-luring" attractions such as swimming pools, saunas and gambling. In both cases, much of the increases were found in the Black Hills area.

Firms which own or service video lottery gambling machines fall into the amusement division of the service industry. Employment of additional workers hired to service those machines accounted for most of the growth in that division. Although of short-term duration, the filming of a motion picture in the Kadoka area during 1991 also upped employment levels enough to impact annual averages.

Medical and health services continued on an upward trend. Much of this industry's growth is a result of competition among hospitals, with those in the larger cities expanding to regional care centers to keep patients from going to even larger facilities, and smaller areas trying hard to keep a hospital and doctor in the area.

Another reason for employment increases in health services is that the demand for rehabilitative services has intensified as the number of elderly people increases and medical advances enable people with conditions which were at one time fatal to survive. The increasing number of elderly has also continued to increase employment levels in nursing homes, home health care services, etc. Actually, all areas of the health services industry showed employment increases from 1990 to 1991, including doctors' offices and clinics (some of which were new satellite clinics built for the convenience of rural South Dakotans), dentists' offices, chiropractors, optometrists, medical and dental laboratories, and such miscellaneous health services as kidney dialysis and alcohol/drug treatment.

Business services stabilizing?

Employment in business services remained stable from 1990 to 1991, whereas this industry has noted growth the past few years. Decreases in advertising agencies, temporary help supply agencies and miscellaneous business service firms offset increases in collection agencies, equipment rental businesses and computer programming services--resulting in the overall stable employment this industry.

The other divisions of the services industry which contributed to growth were membership organizations (up 400) and social services (up 300). The types of membership organizations showing the most growth were bars and restaurants, owned

and operated for members of the organization only, and fraternal lodges (the Elks, for example). The majority of the increase in social services was found in child day care services, job training and vocational rehabilitation services.

Retail trade does another encore

As has been the case most years since 1980, the retail trade industry added the second largest number of wage and salaried workers during 1991, up 2,200 from 1990. The big gainers were general merchandise stores, food stores and eating and drinking places. Stores of a major discount chain which were opened or increased workforces in several of the state's larger cities in 1991 upped retail trade employment levels greatly. Those new businesses accounted for almost all of the growth in this sector. Their competitors experienced declines, or just minimal increases, some even after remodeling, expanding and getting "face lifts" in store layout and design, types and brands of merchandise stocked, etc.

Although many national retailers reported much lower than normal Christmas sales, a lackluster year's end in retail employment levels wasn't the case in South Dakota. In fact, employment in both the retail trade industry, and the general merchandise/apparel division specifically, increased more from October to December this year than has been the case many years since 1980.

Although restaurant employment increased during 1991 as the popularity of eating out continued among a busy society, drinking places accounted for a much larger share of the growth. Video gambling's "promise of profit" has been a drawing card for bar ownership in South Dakota, where businesses must have an on-sale liquor license to have video gambling machines in their establishments--thus placing them in the drinking establishment industry. More people are in the business and are hiring additional workers. In fact, the video gambling phenomena has sort of turned around this industry, which noted employment declines throughout much of the 80s.

The food store division also continued to flourish during 1991, with some new stores and numerous expansions either through moves to new locations or remodeling. "Bigger is better and so is service" seems to be the motto of this industry, with stores which hadn't already done so adding convenient services like video rentals, flower shops, delis, etc. In many cases, those food stores which already had those areas in their stores made expansions in the services offered to customers to keep a competitive edge during 1991 (for example, giving free popcorn to movie renters, having a professional florist on duty during popular shopping hours, etc.)

Growth also occurred in operations which make direct sales door to door or from trucks and in stores which sell such miscellaneous products as used merchandise, jewelry and sporting goods.

Employment was up 900 over 1990 levels in the manufacturing industry, reaching a level of 35,300. This industry has seen fairly steady increases since the mid-80s, a result of strong state and local economic development efforts and a favorable business climate. Not only were new businesses added, but numerous expansions were made. Jobs were added in computer manufacturing, printing and publishing, food and kindred product manufacturing, and miscellaneous manufacturing businesses.

Wholesale not up a whole bunch

The wholesale trade industry had modest growth in 1991, adding 400 jobs. Modest growth has been quite characteristic of this industry since 1987, before which it had been plagued by annual decreases often since 1980. The small growth in 1991 can be tied to an especially good year for farm income in 1990, which gave farmers and ranchers the cash flow to make needed repairs and upgrades to their operations which they had been putting off. The sale of farm/garden machinery and equipment, fertilizer, farm supplies, etc., to farmers is categorized in the wholesale trade industry.

The transportation, communication and utilities industry noted growth of 400 from 1990 to 1991.

Actually, this growth occurred almost completely in the transportation division, with the other two divisions remaining stable. Increases in long-distance trucking and courier services are what kept transportation employment moving along in 1991.

Few here, few there add up

Government employment also increased 400 from 1990 to 1991. The federal government decrease was a direct result of higher than normal levels in 1990 for conducting the Census. State education captured most of the job growth in state government. It appears there were more work study students and student laborers than one year ago. Local government employment in 1991 was 500 higher than a year earlier. This job growth was split fairly equally between the education and non-education sectors. In both cases, the growth seems to be the result of an extra employee here and an extra employee there, rather than a big increase in any particular area.

An annual employment increase of 300 was found in the finance, insurance and real estate industry. The non-depository division remained fairly stable after enjoying healthy growth since 1983 in the area of short-term business credit institutions. The other areas showing growth were operators of apartment buildings and real estate agents and managers. Demand for living quarters has increased as the "lure of a job" has attracted people to urban areas, with an influx of people causing housing shortages in some areas.

Construction builds on 1990 highs

Employment in the state's construction industry increased a slight 200 over the year. This growth is more like this industry's limited annual growth (or even declines some years) since 1980 than were its robust employment increases of 800 and 1,400, respectively, in 1989 and 1990. In light of the outstanding growth in 1989 and 1990 (due largely to the building and special trades construction projects involved with the new chain of department stores mentioned above), any growth at all, or even stability, would be a good economic sign. The growth that occurred in 1991 was distributed quite evenly throughout the building construction, heavy construction and special trades construction divisions.

South Dakota Nonfarm Wage & Salaried Employment
1990 and 1991

	1991	1990	Actual Change	Percent Change
Total Nonfarm	296,700	288,700	8,000	2.8%
Goods Producing	49,800	48,600	1,200	2.5%
Mining	2,600	2,600	0	0.0%
Construction	11,900	11,700	200	1.7%
Manufacturing	35,300	34,400	900	2.6%
Service Producding	246,900	240,100	6,800	2.8%
Transportation & Utilities	13,700	13,300	400	3.0%
Wholesale Trade	19,100	18,700	400	2.1%
Retail Trade	59,700	57,500	2,200	3.8%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	16,600	16,300	300	1.8%
Services	74,800	71,700	3,100	4.3%
Government	63,100	62,700	400	0.6%

SOURCE: Labor Market Information Center, South Dakota Department of Labor

Labor Force

	December 1991[1]				December 1990			
	Labor Force[2]	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	Labor Force[2]	Employment	Unemployment	Rate
United States	125,108,000	116,549,000	8,559,000	6.8[3]	124,630,000	117,287,000	7,343,000	5.9[3]
South Dakota	362,800	351,500	11,300	3.1	355,500	344,200	11,300	3.2
Sioux Falls MSA	79,345	77,399	1,946	2.5	76,591	74,311	2,280	3.0
Rapid City MSA	41,359	39,940	1,419	3.4	39,678	38,513	1,165	2.9
Aurora	1,361	1,337	24	1.8	1,448	1,408	40	2.8
Beadle	8,303	8,048	255	3.1	8,928	8,698	230	2.6
Bennett	1,546	1,492	54	3.5	1,482	1,450	32	2.2
Bon Homme	3,420	3,345	75	2.2	3,339	3,276	63	1.9
Brookings	15,882	15,145	737	4.6	15,164	14,591	573	3.8
Brown	19,513	18,929	584	3.0	19,987	19,352	635	3.2
Brule	2,474	2,449	25	1.0	2,702	2,663	39	1.4
Buffalo	374	362	12	3.2	415	392	23	5.5
Butte	3,346	3,227	119	3.6	3,434	3,296	138	4.0
Campbell	984	947	37	3.8	1,077	1,027	50	4.6
Charles Mix	3,745	3,652	93	2.5	3,689	3,612	77	2.1
Clark	1,703	1,630	73	4.3	1,781	1,710	71	4.0
Clay	7,097	6,868	229	3.2	7,130	6,894	236	3.3
Codington	12,362	12,014	348	2.8	12,599	11,994	605	4.8
Corson	1,261	1,165	96	7.6	1,518	1,378	140	9.2
Custer	3,570	3,420	150	4.2	3,502	3,311	191	5.5
Davison	9,317	9,080	237	2.5	9,252	9,055	197	2.1
Day	3,131	3,009	122	3.9	3,058	2,936	122	4.0
Deuel	2,080	2,002	78	3.8	2,126	2,055	71	3.3
Dewey	1,910	1,781	129	6.8	1,921	1,819	102	5.3
Douglas	1,549	1,507	42	2.7	1,540	1,516	24	1.6
Edmunds	1,841	1,795	46	2.5	1,885	1,832	53	2.8
Fall River	2,930	2,837	93	3.2	3,097	2,979	118	3.8
Faulk	1,072	1,057	15	1.4	1,087	1,079	8	.7
Grant	4,097	3,929	168	4.1	3,965	3,843	122	3.1
Gregory	2,205	2,145	60	2.7	2,282	2,205	77	3.4
Haakon	1,068	1,049	19	1.8	1,127	1,117	10	.9
Hamlin	2,329	2,247	82	3.5	2,395	2,335	60	2.5
Hand	1,834	1,787	47	2.6	1,759	1,706	53	3.0
Hanson	1,259	1,230	29	2.3	1,323	1,290	33	2.5
Harding	692	664	28	4.0	781	761	20	2.6
Hughes	8,499	8,319	180	2.1	8,363	8,195	168	2.0
Hutchinson	4,126	3,993	133	3.2	3,892	3,800	92	2.4

Labor Force

	December 1991[1]				December 1990			
	Labor Force[2]	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	Labor Force[2]	Employment	Unemployment	Rate
Hyde	788	781	7	.9	791	770	21	2.7
Jackson	1,592	1,520	72	4.5	1,557	1,509	48	3.1
Jerauld	1,090	1,071	19	1.7	1,059	1,037	22	2.1
Jones	607	571	36	5.9	594	557	37	6.2
Kingsbury	2,632	2,565	67	2.5	2,585	2,508	77	3.0
Lake	5,140	4,932	208	4.0	5,022	4,751	271	5.4
Lawrence	13,828	13,281	547	4.0	13,204	12,654	550	4.2
Lincoln	7,514	7,283	231	3.1	7,070	6,857	213	3.0
Lyman	1,452	1,390	62	4.3	1,424	1,352	72	5.1
McCook	2,719	2,651	68	2.5	2,655	2,583	72	2.7
McPherson	1,419	1,365	54	3.8	1,421	1,395	26	1.8
Marshall	2,115	2,064	51	2.4	2,092	2,034	58	2.8
Meade	11,273	10,907	366	3.2	9,486	9,187	299	3.2
Mellette	767	737	30	3.9	847	816	31	3.7
Miner	1,520	1,478	42	2.8	1,463	1,437	26	1.8
Minnehaha	79,345	77,399	1,946	2.5	76,591	74,311	2,280	3.0
Moody	3,442	3,313	129	3.7	2,972	2,881	91	3.1
Pennington	41,359	39,940	1,419	3.4	39,678	38,513	1,165	2.9
Perkins	2,122	2,085	37	1.7	2,194	2,127	67	3.1
Potter	1,278	1,252	26	2.0	1,334	1,306	28	2.1
Roberts	4,603	4,410	193	4.2	4,406	4,248	158	3.6
Sanborn	1,034	1,001	33	3.2	1,059	1,035	24	2.3
Shannon	2,296	2,167	129	5.6	2,412	2,318	94	3.9
Spink	3,268	3,190	78	2.4	3,473	3,403	70	2.0
Stanley	1,586	1,521	65	4.1	1,264	1,237	27	2.1
Sully	730	695	35	4.8	685	671	14	2.0
Todd	2,665	2,543	122	4.6	2,477	2,391	86	3.5
Tripp	3,188	3,106	82	2.6	3,108	3,004	104	3.3
Turner	3,774	3,705	69	1.8	4,126	4,009	117	2.8
Union	6,286	6,057	229	3.6	5,940	5,653	287	4.8
Walworth	2,746	2,635	111	4.0	2,875	2,748	127	4.4
Yankton	10,575	10,303	272	2.6	10,483	10,276	207	2.0
Ziebach	1,139	1,114	25	2.2	1,123	1,095	28	2.5

[1] Preliminary data subject to revision.

[2] Labor force estimates include employed and unemployed civilians 16 years old and older by place of residence.

3 The seasonally-adjusted rates for the United States which were announced by the national government were 7.1 and 6.1. The data in this table are not seasonally adjusted.

Source: Developed by the South Dakota Department of Labor, in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

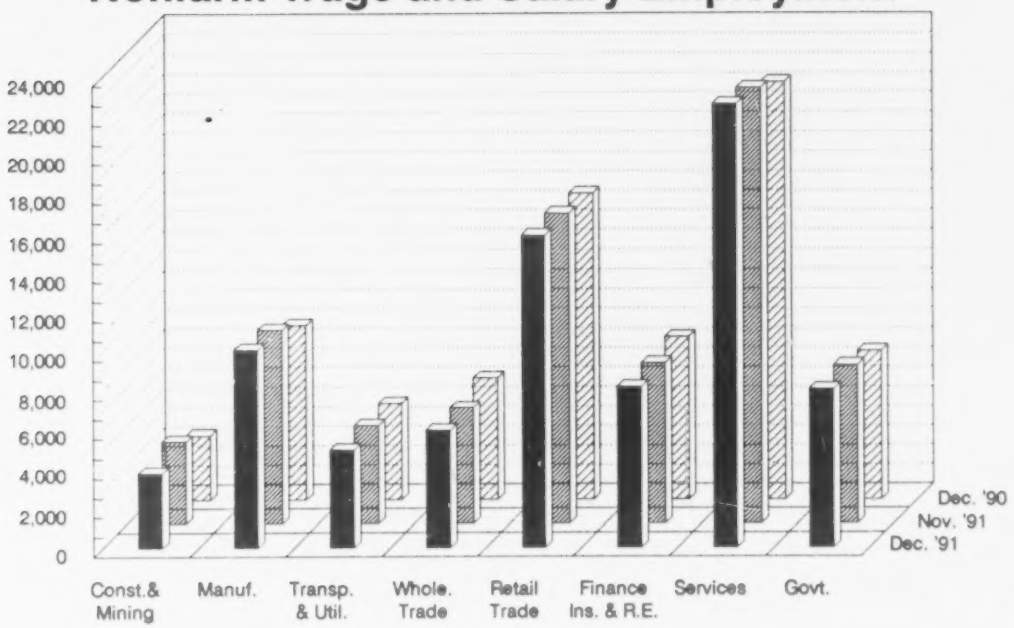
South Dakota Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment

	Dec. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1990	% Change From Last Month	% Change From Last Year
TOTAL	**301,700**	**302,900**	**291,600**	**-.4**	**3.5**
GOODS PRODUCING	51,200	52,600	47,300	-2.7	8.2
Mining	2,600	2,600	2,500	.0	4.0
Construction	11,800	13,200	10,800	-10.6	9.3
Manufacturing	36,800	36,800	34,000	.0	8.2
Durable Goods	21,000	21,200	19,400	-.9	8.2
Nondurable Goods	15,800	15,600	14,600	1.3	8.2
Food & Kindred Products	8,000	8,000	7,600	.0	5.3
Printing & Publishing	3,500	3,500	3,200	.0	9.4
SERVICE PRODUCING	250,500	250,300	244,300	.1	2.5
Transportation & Public Utilities	14,000	14,000	13,800	.0	1.4
Transportation	8,600	8,500	8,500	1.2	1.2
Communication	3,100	3,200	3,100	-3.1	.0
Electric/Gas/Sanitary Services	2,300	2,300	2,300	.0	.0
Wholesale Trade	18,800	18,900	18,900	-.5	-.5
Durable Goods	8,500	8,600	8,800	-1.2	-3.4
Nondurable Goods	10,300	10,300	10,100	.0	2.0
Retail Trade	61,700	61,200	59,200	.8	4.2
Eating and Drinking Establishments	21,300	21,200	21,000	.5	1.4
General Merchandise/Apparel	12,500	12,300	11,400	1.6	9.6
Food Stores	9,200	9,100	8,700	1.1	5.7
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	16,500	16,500	16,400	.0	.6
Finance	11,000	10,900	10,700	.9	2.8
Depository Institutions	5,900	5,900	5,700	.0	3.5
Nondepository Institutions	4,300	4,300	4,300	.0	.0
Insurance Carriers, Agents & Brokers	3,900	3,800	3,900	2.6	.0
Services	74,100	74,300	71,400	-.3	3.8
Hotels/Motels & Amusements	9,000	9,200	8,700	-2.2	3.4
Personal and Business	9,200	9,200	8,200	.0	12.2
Medical and Health Services	28,600	28,500	27,400	.4	4.4
Hospitals	13,400	13,400	12,800	.0	4.7
Health Services, other than Hospitals[1]	15,200	15,100	14,600	.7	4.1
Educational Services	5,400	5,400	5,600	.0	-3.6
Social Services	5,700	5,800	5,500	-1.7	3.6
Membership Organizations	8,800	8,800	8,600	.0	2.3
Government	65,400	65,400	64,600	.0	1.2
Federal	11,800	11,700	11,600	.9	1.7
State	17,500	17,500	17,400	.0	.6
State Education	8,700	8,700	8,800	.0	-1.1
Local	36,100	36,200	35,600	-.3	1.4
Local Education	21,000	21,200	20,800	-.9	1.0

Source: Developed by the South Dakota Department of Labor in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

[1]Not developed in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Sioux Falls MSA
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment

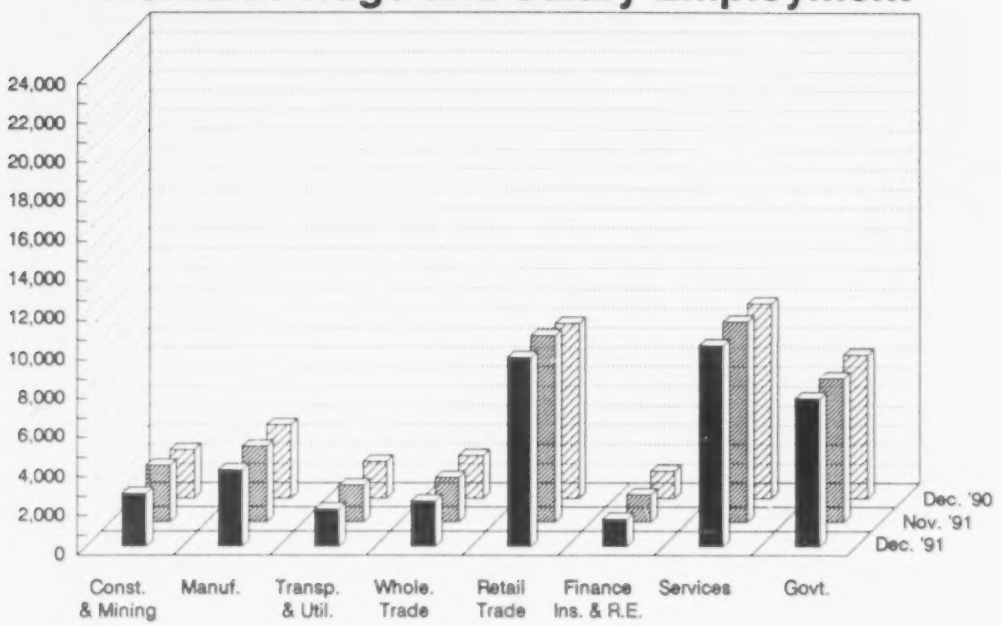


	Dec. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1990	% Change From Last Month	% Change From Last Year
TOTAL	**79,700**	**79,300**	**76,100**	**.5**	**4.7**
GOODS PRODUCING	13,900	14,100	12,200	-1.4	13.9
*Construction & Mining	3,800	4,200	3,300	-9.5	15.2
Manufacturing	10,100	9,900	8,900	2.0	13.5
SERVICE PRODUCING	65,800	65,200	63,900	.9	3.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	5,000	5,000	4,900	.0	2.0
Wholesale Trade	6,000	5,900	6,200	1.7	-3.2
Retail Trade	15,900	15,800	15,600	.6	1.9
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	8,200	8,200	8,300	.0	-1.2
Services	22,600	22,200	21,300	1.8	6.1
Government	8,100	8,100	7,600	.0	6.6

*Mining employment less than 100.

Source: Developed by the South Dakota Department of Labor in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Rapid City MSA
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment



	Dec. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1990	% Change From Last Month	% Change From Last Year
TOTAL	**39,800**	**39,700**	**38,200**	**.3**	**4.2**
GOODS PRODUCING	6,600	6,800	6,300	-2.9	4.8
*Construction & Mining	2,700	2,900	2,500	-6.9	8.0
Manufacturing	3,900	3,900	3,800	.0	2.6
SERVICE PRODUCING	33,200	32,900	31,900	.9	4.1
Transportation & Public Utilities	1,900	1,900	1,900	.0	.0
Wholesale Trade	2,300	2,300	2,200	.0	4.5
Retail Trade	9,700	9,600	9,000	1.0	7.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1,400	1,400	1,400	.0	.0
Services	10,300	10,300	10,000	.0	3.0
Government	7,600	7,400	7,400	2.7	2.7

*Mining employment less than 300.

Source: Developed by the South Dakota Department of Labor in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Hours and Earnings of Production Workers

	Number of Production Workers			Average Weekly Hours		
	Dec. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1990	Dec. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1990
South Dakota						
Total Private	196,100	197,000	189,200	33.3	33.1	33.2
Mining	2,200	2,200	2,100	43.0	43.5	42.2
Construction	9,400	10,600	8,500	38.8	39.4	38.3
Manufacturing	26,900	27,500	25,400	42.8	42.2	41.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	11,700	11,700	11,600	39.7	38.9	39.3
Wholesale & Retail Trade	70,900	70,200	68,700	30.0	29.8	31.0
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	12,500	12,500	12,400	36.8	35.3	35.8
Services	62,500	62,300	60,500	30.0	29.8	29.7
Sioux Falls MSA						
Manufacturing	7,200	7,000	6,100	44.7	45.3	44.1
Rapid City MSA						
Manufacturing	3,000	3,000	3,000	40.3	40.1	38.4

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Dec. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1990	Dec. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1990
South Dakota						
Total Private	$274.06	$273.74	$266.60	$8.23	$8.27	$8.03
Mining	568.46	568.55	539.32	13.22	13.07	12.78
Construction	411.67	406.21	401.77	10.61	10.31	10.49
Manufacturing	371.08	369.67	356.70	8.67	8.76	8.70
Transportation & Public Utilities	449.40	443.85	429.55	11.32	11.41	10.93
Wholesale & Retail Trade	204.00	206.81	203.05	6.80	6.94	6.55
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	342.24	310.29	302.15	9.30	8.79	8.44
Services	234.90	234.23	234.63	7.83	7.86	7.90
Sioux Falls MSA						
Manufacturing	$408.11	$406.79	$396.90	$9.13	$8.98	$9.00
Rapid City MSA						
Manufacturing	$408.24	$384.96	$357.89	$10.13	$9.60	$9.32

Source: Developed by the South Dakota Department of Labor, in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

■ Production workers in South Dakota's mining industry worked more hours per week, on the average, than production workers in other industries in December 1991.

■ The state's two MSAs accounted for about 38 percent of the state's manufacturing production workers in December 1991.

■ The number of production workers in South Dakota in December 1991 was up 6,900 from one year ago.

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed[1]

	Dec. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1990
Total	2,777	2,197	2,375
Male	1,920	1,447	1,615
Female	857	750	760
White	2,517	1,974	2,181
Nonwhite	260	223	194
Under 45	1,957	1,519	1,736
Over 45	820	678	639
By Industry[2]			
Mining	67	37	77
Construction	769	519	696
Manufacturing	469	409	540
Transportation & Public Utilities	128	101	79
Trade	576	493	419
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	65	53	49
Services	531	452	414
Government	172	133	101
By Occupation[2]			
Professional & Managerial	365	322	293
Clerical and Sales	391	353	332
Services	431	327	272
Processing	68	52	121
Machine Trade	142	134	89
Benchwork	146	140	157
Structural Work	821	597	746
Other	413	272	365
By Duration of Current Unemployment			
1-2 Weeks	616	494	560
3-4 Weeks	404	354	428
5-14 Weeks	1,143	772	950
15 Weeks & Over	614	577	437

[1] The insured unemployed are those people who had worked for employers covered by South Dakota's Unemployment Insurance laws and who filed claims for unemployment insurance compensation during the week including the 12th of the month.

[2] Refers to industry and occupation involvement prior to unemployment.

Selected Labor Department Activities

	Dec. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1990	% Change From Last Month	% Change From Last Year
Unemployment Insurance					
A. Initial Claims	2,857	2,335	2,787	22.4	2.5
B. Weeks Compensated	11,465	8,256	9,149	38.9	25.3
C. Amount of Benefit Payments	$1,058,819	$766,720	$821,678	38.1	28.9
D. Unemployment Trust Fund Balance	$48,567,633	$48,549,343	$47,674,623	0.0	1.9
Job Service					
E. Applicants Available (new and renewal)	5,118	5,268	5,329	-2.8	-4.0
F. Nonfarm Placements	3,326	2,865	3,575	16.1	-7.0
G. Nonfarm Job Openings	8,470	8,809	8,366	-3.8	1.2

Haste makes waste and sometimes causes accidents too

The roofing crew had put in a long day. They were very close to completing the job. The completion date was in two days. If the job was not completed by then, the company would be assessed monetary penalties for late completion under the contract. The only thing left to do was apply the gravel. It would take a couple of hours.

The foreman decided they should finish the job, although it was getting late and the crew was tired. There was no telling if the weather would continue to be good the next day. Besides, the crew was from out of town, and if they finished that day, they could return home, and save an extra day's lodging expense.

They began hoisting the heavy buckets of gravel with the motorized pulley. The crew was working hard and fast in their attempt to finish the job the same day. The person operating the pulley was not looking ahead of the lowering bucket. The person shoveling gravel was trying to fill the bucket on the ground as fast as possible. Without thinking, he moved to the side of the gravel pile where the lowering cast iron bucket was to land. Instead of landing on the ground, it landed on his head.

The injured worker was taken to the emergency room. The crew supervisor shut down work for the remainder of the day. Instead of gaining time, the crew lost time.

Vigilance toward safety would have prevented this accident. It could have prevented an injury. It would have saved time for the crew. It would have allowed timely completion of the job.

Safety is no accident.

Technical Notes and Definitions

Pages 6, 7 and 8 - Nonfarm wage and salary employment estimates include almost all nonfarm wage earners (full and part-time) but exclude the self-employed. They are derived from a monthly sample survey of South Dakota non-agricultural establishments and include workers on the payroll for the week including the 12th of the month. These tables compare the current month's employment totals of the major industry groups to the totals of the previous month and year.

Page 9 - Average hours and earnings data are derived from reports of payrolls and hours for production and related workers in manufacturing and mining, construction workers in construction, and non-supervisory employees in private service-producing industries. The data cover full and part-time employees who worked during or received pay for the payroll period that includes the 12th of the month. The earnings figures are "gross" figures. They may be higher than employer wage rates, since they reflect premium pay for shift differentials and overtime work. The hours figures relate to the hours for which pay was received; this is different from scheduled or standard work hours.

Page 10 - The data in the table at the bottom of page 10 are taken from the records of the state unemployment insurance program and the state Job Service system. The terms are defined as follows:

A. Initial Claims - the total number of first claims for unemployment compensation.

B. Weeks Compensated - the total number of weeks for which claimants received compensation.

C. Amount of Benefit Payments - the total amount of money paid to claimants.

D. Unemployment Trust Fund Balance - the fund to which all required Unemployment Insurance taxes are paid and from which all benefits to claimants are paid.

E. Applicants Available (new and renewals) - the total number of different individuals who registered or renewed their registrations for work at Job Service offices in the state.

F. Nonag Placements - a count of the number of times during the month that Job Service applicants were hired by nonfarm employers.

G. Nonag Job Openings - a count of new job openings received during the month by South Dakota Job Service offices from nonfarm employers.

Labor Market Information Center
South Dakota Department of Labor
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South Dakota Labor Bulletin

Selected National Economic Indicators

	Dec. 1991	Nov. 1991	Dec. 1990	% Change From Last Month	% Change From Last Year
Consumer Price Index[1]	137.9	137.8	133.8	0.1	3.1
Industrial Production Index[2]	107.8	108.0	107.2	-0.2	0.6
Retail Trade Sales[3]	$151,153	$151,731	$150,149	-0.4	0.7
Privately Owned Housing Starts[4]	1,103	1,075	971	2.6	13.6
Bank Prime Loan Rate[5]	7.21	7.58	10.00	-4.9	-27.9

[1]U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. 1982-84 = 100.

[2]Federal Reserve Board. Includes manufacturing, mining and utilities. 1987 = 100. Seasonally adjusted.

[3]Bureau of the Census. Adjusted for seasonal, holiday and trading day differences. In millions of dollars.

[4]Bureau of the Census. Includes new, privately owned housing units started. Seasonally adjusted annual rates. In thousands of units.

[5]Federal Reserve Board. Annual rates.

■ South Dakota's unemployment rate was 3.1 percent in December 1991, down slightly from the rate of 3.2 percent one year ago.

■ 1991 annual average nonfarm wage and salary employment levels are now available . . . see table on page 3.

■ The rate of increase in inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, was down to 3.1 percent from December 1990 to December 1991, compared to a previous December to December increase of 6.1 percent.